

The DX Bulletin

• America's Oldest Weekly Amateur Radio Publication •

ISSUE 316 DECEMBER 27, 1985

PROPAGATION: Dec 25, High Normal; Dec 26, 27, Disturbed; Dec 28, 29, Low Normal; Dec 30, High Normal; Dec 31, Low Normal; Jan 1-3, High Normal; Jan 4, High/Above Normal; Jan 5, Above Normal. TNX N4XX.

Flux (80)	Flux (81)	Flux (82)	Flux (83)	Flux (84)	Date	Flux -----1985-----	A	K
252	226	247	104	80	12/13	78	21	3
261	199	243	104	79	12/14	79	10	3
264	178	236	100	77	12/15	83	7	3
282	163	214	95	77	12/16	87	10	2
263	149	202	98	77	12/17	83	8	2
264	142	193	95	75	12/18	81	15	2
246	134	179	93	73	12/19	80	24	2

SOLAR FLUX peaked Dec 16 and the next peak is expected around Jan 10-12 (KH6BZF Reports). Flux levels of around 80 for the ARRL 10 Meter Contest did no good, as band conditions were generally miserable. The last decent flux levels, above 90 just before the CQ WW Phone Contest, are likely to have been the highest we will see for about two years.

WLHDQ, who writes the WIAW propagation bulletins, is asking for reports of 10 Meter beacons heard during the next year or so. See TDXB Issue 313 for a list of those beacons, and send reports to Ed Tilton, PO Box 5529, Spring Hill FL 33526.

Tilton notes in his latest bulletin that "for a long time prior to late October solar activity was averaging lower than would have been expected, with at least two years remaining in Solar Cycle 21. What we have experienced in the last eight weeks or so (Nov-Dec, '85) is probably a fair example of what lies ahead for at least the rest of the northern hemisphere winter."

NOTES

• W6SAI notes in January Ham Radio that Australia has an over-the-horizon radar which has been used experimentally since 1978, but notes that the system is set up to avoid interference to amateur bands (or so the Australian government claims). W6SAI goes on to note, however, that the Australian set-up was fairly economical to build, and he speculates that someday "any country with a few bucks and lots of open space can set up its own 'do it yourself' backscatter radar system." This could turn the HF bands into a communications wasteland.

The DX Family Foundation newsletter notes that Japanese amateurs are keeping an eye on the OTH radar situation in their country. There is talk that the U.S. government would like to set one up in the Ogawawara chain, to cover the Pacific, Central America, the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans, the Mediterranean Sea, and West Asia. The Japanese military and government are reportedly not in complete agreement on the viability of such a setup, which would be used to detect the position of aircraft half 'way around the world.

• Further to TJ1CH...ARRL's bulletin says he's on the 14.183 net, and to QSL to "Jack," Box 1169, Yaounde, Cameroon.

o We have conflicting reports on the Colvins' next stop (after 7P8KG); one says they will go to 3D6 Swaziland, the other says A22 Botswana. There was some trouble with guest operators in Botswana a couple of years back, so 3D6 might be a better guess. The activity, from wherever, will commence about the time you get this.

• According to DX News Sheet, ZLIAMO spent a week on Apia, W. Samoa, last month, using an IC735 and dipole while awaiting the rest of his equipment, which never did show up. So, he abandoned his planned ZK3 operation and returned to New Zealand. His equipment was later found languishing in an air freight office. The Niue trip is tentatively rescheduled for next March.

• K7EHI/T32 is reportedly operating from the shack of Lamar, T32AB, on Christmas Island. There is no indication of how long he will stay. His QTH in the 1985 Callbook is OK for QSLs.

• Jim Smith will leave P29JS Papua New Guinea at the end of January, to return to Norfolk Island and VK9NS. He and wife Kirsti VK9NL will be in the States next spring, with plans to attend the Dayton Hamvention.

• BT0BK was a special operation from China by JALBK and JK10PL during the CQ WW Phone Contest in October, according to Japan's DX Family Foundation. They report making 3,300 contacts, although no band or continent breakdown is available. JALHGY is QSL manager.

Also, BY1PK, BY1QH, BY4AA and BY5RA were all reported worked in Japan during the CQ WW CW Contest, on 80-15 Meters. DXFF noted, however, that the operators were not ready for the stress of the contest situation and were making contacts in their typical slow, methodical way.

• Jim Smith reports that Heard Island station VIOCC (instead of VK0) tried to check into his 14.220 MHz net often but had poor propagation at 0630Z. DXFF reports that VIOCC was too weak to hear in Japan. The Nella Dan ship had been stuck in the ice for nearly 60 days, according to P29JS, and an icebreaker had to be sent to free the boat and get VIOCC and the others off of Heard.

The same ship Nella Dan was due to pick up VK0GC on Macquarie Dec 6, and that would be the end of that operation. Graema reports making over 6,000 contacts in his one year on Macquarie; QSL manager is P29JS.

• VK9ZB also left his island, Willis, early in December; Jim Smith notes that the next group to spend time on Willis will include a ham, one who is expected to have a "full" license and to operate CW.

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CURRENT ACTIVITY IN MOST-NEEDED COUNTRIES

ONE YEAR AGO we noted that 15 of the 75 most needed countries in our Survey were on the air, per our 1984 Survey. This year we count 16 using the same criteria.

In December 1984, we noted the following active: 1Z9A Burma, which doesn't count for DXCC; XU1SS activity was way down and they were very difficult to work from North America; the various China stations were most workable by writing them for a schedule; 5U7LD and 5X5GK were both active but neither counted for DXCC (5X5GK now does); TT8CW was very active although Chad's position did not change from the '84 to the '85 Survey; FB8XAB had been active and more operations were anticipated; Y11BGD continued to be active; VK0GC was on Macquarie but we had not seen any reports yet.

Among the 1984 bottom half of the Top 73, 5R8AL, 1A0KM, KA2MI Minami Torishima, FH4AA Mayotte, PY1VOY/Trindade, BV2B, several TA stations, D68AM, and J5WAD were all on the air.

Surprisingly little has changed in the past year. There is no activity from any of the 1985 Top 12. XU1SS continues to represent #13, although we have noted that the station seems to be workable these days only from Asia. S92LB continues to be active exclusively on 20 SSB and to reduce the demand for Sao Tome (#14).

China was #29 in 1985 and although several BY stations are active they are not nearly as workable as a couple of years ago. This rounds out the TDXB top 30 for 1985, with stations active from only three of them.

TN8EE Congo is still available on 20 Meters, although he has been rumored to be leaving for several months. 5X5GK appears infrequently, usually on the 14.183 afternoon net. Y11BGD shows occasionally, but another tremendous backlog of QSL requests has built up there. The VK0CC (VK2BCC) Heard operation in October was a bust.

Kerguelen was still #40 in our April 1985 Survey but FT8XA and XB have been everywhere since and both are still active. 5R8 Malagasy was #41 in both '84 and '85 and although 5R8AL is still occasionally active will probably change standing little if any.

In rankings #50-75, the following are active: 9M6, VK9 Willis (but VK9ZB has just left the island), PY0T (there was a brief operation early this month), D68AM Comoros, UG6 (it's QSLs, not contacts, that are the problem), Mali (lots of TZ action), Christmas, Taiwan, Macao (XX9XX in November), Guinea Bissau (J5WAD gone but J52UAG coming on line), and finally TJ1CH, who has appeared a time or two but is doubtful.

WE ARE IN come serious doldrums, both in solar activity and in rarity of DX. It has been nearly ten years since most of the ten most needed countries have been on the air, longer for some of them. There is lots of talk about such places as Albania, North and South Yemen, Bouvet, Andamans, etc., but no action. And despite what you may hear from such people as Brazil's "Dragon Lady," there is little chance of anything materializing soon.

MORE ON A.M.

SOMEONE CALLED with a Collins 32V-2 to offer ... we'll get back to you on that one. We have been studying QST from the 50s and discover how many rigs there were that we'd completely forgotten about! We have noted on 75 Meters that the best sounding AM seems to be coming from Valiants and Johnson 500s, with one exception - we heard a W2 using a Collins KW-1 the other day, and it put the audio of most commercial AM stations to shame.

We have two reasons for wanting to try AM: first, to do something different in amateur radio. We thought for a time about hooking this computer up to a transceiver and trying RTTY, or something. But we are spending 40 hours a week staring at a VDT at the newspaper and then all weekend staring at this VDT at TDXB, so playing computer radio would not exactly qualify as a "hobby."

Our other goal is to get back to our roots ... this is our 25th year as a licensed amateur. We never operated AM in the early days, although our list of transmitters used includes a DX40, DX60, Apache, HT-37, and on and on. We stayed on CW exclusively.

We once had an Apache/Mohawk/SB10 combination, and we would like to get our hands on them again. The (identical) mechanical set-up in the Apache and Mohawk would have made Eli Whitney proud ... it almost took two hands to turn the bandswitch. A giant knob put into motion an incredible assortment of gears and spring-loaded pullies, which rotated not only the various switch wafers but also a translucent drum.

The drum had a separate slide-rule scale for each band, about a foot long. When you rotated that bandswitch knob, you could feel lots of things going on inside that box, and watch the slide-rule drum rotate to a new position. The fact that it practically required a master's degree in mechanical engineering to put the thing together (or repair it) aside, those radios felt powerful.

The Mohawk receiver had 15 tubes.

Now, hell, you get a radio with a bunch of wimpy little buttons and almost nothing mechanical inside. They don't smell like white grease when you light them up.

What we want to do is work CW, with a little AM thrown in for kicks, and an Apache and Mohawk will work just fine, for a hundred bucks or so. They should generate enough heat to keep the basement at 70 or so degrees, and no thief in his right mind would walk off with them.

Think of this...a 1985 computer hooked up to a 1958 Apache, to work RTTY. Now, wouldn't that be a goof? - K1TN.

160 METERS

9H1EP 1836 2200 9 RI
FM5WD 1834 0320 15 MA
J37AE 1837 0140 9 RI
OY7ML 1838 0200 27 RI
PZ1AC 1830 0155 9 RI
VY1CW 1850 0700 11 RI

80 METERS

9L1SL 3800 2200 15 MA
J28EI 3799 0047 15 NH
J28EI 3800 0236 15 MA
J37AE 3506 0217 17 FL
JALXAF 3798 1151 14 NH
JF1IST 3798 1048 20 MA
JF4IKD 3795 2200 13 QU
PJ8UQ 3797 0636 15 MA
UBOYZ 3506 0417 14 FL
UBOYZ 3508 0107 14 MA
VI3XB 3505 1043 20 MA
YB0JH 3795 2208 13 QU
ZP2ZR 3795 0152 20 MA

40 METERS

4K1ZZ 7001 2244 16 FL
4Z4DX 7006 0020 13 MI
7P8KG 7016 2303 13 AL
7P8KG 7016 2252 13 FL
8P6NX 7009 0118 9 MI
A92EM 7006 0011 13 FL
BV2DA 7008 1610 4 OR
BV5RA 7005 1430 15 IL
CE0FFD 7015 0206 9 CA
CE2GLR 7021 0009 13 FL
CE4IDY 7002 0024 13 FL
CE9AA 7007 0200 5 MA
CP5LK 7001 0016 12 AL
CU3AA 7013 0314 8 CA
CX6BQ 7006 0100 12 FL
CX6BQ 7006 0004 12 MI
DJ2BW 7004 1516 12 CA
(LONG PATH)
DU2/KA3DRR 7008 1545 12 OR
EA8BDX 7012 0502 17 FL
F2MA 7007 1511 11 CA
(LONG PATH)
FK8FG 7008 1316 16 AL
FM4DN 7003 2320 15 AL
FM5WO 7013 1155 10 CA
FO8JP 7006 0436 17 FL
FY5DD 7009 0320 7 CA
H44IA 7001 1150 9 PA
H44IA 7005 1355 15 OR
HC5NAI 7003 0725 13 OR
HC5NAI 7007 0110 12 FL
HI8LC 7020 0107 12 FL
HP1XKR 7005 0715 13 OR
ISOQDV 7006 0005 13 FL
LZ2JF 7005 1515 12 OR
OA4IU 7006 2303 13 FL
PI5PVI 7017 2330 10 FL
PZ1AV 7006 0100 12 FL
PZ1DT 7018 0229 17 FL
RA4HA 7002 1227 12 AL
RB4IRO 7006 1255 10 AL
RB5QW 7009 0548 13 OR
SV1KU 7004 0434 17 FL
TF/KA2ATM 7013 2249 13 AL
TF/KA2ATM 7013 2250 13 FL
UA6IA 7009 0441 17 FL
UA6LTI 7008 1500 12 OR

UA6LTI 7006 1355 15 OR
UF6FB 7003 2200 13 MA
UI8BAA 7006 1218 9 AL
UI8OAA 7006 1300 17 IL
UR1RWX 7005 1300 11 AL
UZ0AB 7002 0125 14 OR
UZ0AB 7002 0129 14 CA
(LONG PATH)
(ZONE 18)
UZ9AYA 7006 1244 12 CA
V2ACW 7004 0004 14 MI
V85NL 7002 1609 13 OR
V85NL 7004 1550 11 OR
V85NL 7005 1533 11 CA
V85NL 7007 1505 12 OR
VK9LM 7005 0705 13 OR
VS6TP 7006 1610 4 OR
VU2SV 7007 0112 12 FL
VU2TTC 7004 1252 16 AL
VU2TTC 7002 0111 13 CA
VU2TTC 7004 1245 16 IL
XT2BR 7001 2230 10 FL
YB0AV 7009 1507 12 OR
YB2BNJ 7005 2247 15 AL
YB2BNJ 7006 2212 15 MA
YB2BNJ 7008 2234 10 FL
YCOBBZ 7007 1505 12 OR
YV5/DK8CX 7003 0725 13 OR
Z22JS 7007 0404 12 CA
Z22JS 7011 0414 14 FL
ZB2RAF 7014 0103 12 FL
ZF2AD 7003 0311 7 CA
ZS3Z 7004 0525 13 OR
ZS3Z 7004 0425 17 FL
ZS3Z 7004 0353 13 CA

20 METERS

3B8CF 14030 2046 13 MI
4U1UN 14261 2241 13 CT
4Z4DX 14026 1830 11 PA
5B25SC 14209 132S3 13 PA
5H3BH 14183 1833 12 NH
5H3CE 14183 1740 6 PA
5N9GM 14185 1940 12 NH
5R8AL 14183 1750 9 PA
5T5LW 14227 2005 14 NH
5T5LW 14226 2120 6 PA
5T5SL 14029 1711 14 FL
5T5SL 14227 1834 1 CT
5X5GK 14183 1926 12 NH
5Z4DU 14183 1852 1 MD
5Z4DU 14226 2115 6 PA
6W1NQ 14203 1932 12 NH
6W1PC 14030 1948 14 FL
6W6NJ 14182 2245 7 CT
7P8KG 14017 1815 12 FL
7P8KG 14018 2000 15 MA
7P8KG 14018 2028 12 MI
7P8KG 14176 1823 11 NH
7P8KG 14183 1900 10 PA
7X2LS 14181 1646 15 MA
7X2LS 14225 1155 15 CT
8P6BU 14016 2005 13 FL
9U5JM 14191 1928 14 NH
9Y4/J6LAD 14025 2010 13 FL
9Y4NW 14034 2034 14 FL
A22DP 14199 1854 12 NH
A4XJW 14174 1315 4 MD
CE0FQU 14227 2135 14 NH
CU2AK 14023 1944 14 FL
CV0U 14028 0525 9 IL
D68AM 14033 2035 13 MI
DU9RG 14211 000Q 10 PA

EA6/G6ZY 14026 1812 14 OR
EA8AT 14020 1833 12 FL
EA9KD 14030 1629 14 FL
FM5DK 14016 2008 13 FL
FR4ZD 14181 1855 11 NH
FR4ZD 14182 1815 11 PA
FR4ZD 14204 1740 14 NH
FT8XB 14184 1938 11 NH
FT8XB 14183 2037 8 MD
FT8XB 14183 2000 7 PA
FT8XB 14183 2100 9 PA
HB0CZS 14036 1418 14 AL
HB0CZS 14021 1355 16 FL
HV3SH 14227 1551 1 MD
ISOMVE 14019 1600 12 OR
ISOMVE 14018 1639 12 FL
JW5E 14227 1706 9 NH
JY5ZH 14226 1405 8 CT
KC4AAA 14236 0135 15 VT
PZ1AV 14022 2009 13 FL
S79WHW 14183 1941 10 NH
S79WHW 14183 1900 10 PA
S79WHW 14183 1830 12 PA
S92LB 14183 2039 8 MD
SV0AC/9 14169 1630 15 MA
SV9PR 14192 1304 15 CT
T77C 14224 1732 14 NH
TA1C 14184 1957 11 NH
TA1C 14223 1656 14 NH
TA1C 14227 1546 8 MD
TF/KC2TU 14257 1620 15 MA
TI8ZWW 14018 2041 14 FL
TR8DR 14211 2211 7 CT
TU2FI 14216 1830 14 NH
TU4BR 14183 2006 12 NH
TZ6FE 14227 1826 1 CT
TZ6FE 14226 2221 8 MD
TZ6FIC 14183 1740 6 PA
VQ9MG 14200 1331 3 MD
VU2BK 14064 1242 4 GA
VU2BK 14065 1315 9 GA
VU2GMC 14163 1407 8 CT
VU2IOC 14198 1322 9 MD
VU2UGI 14205 1316 5 MD
XQ1ADG 14021 2311 14 FL
XT2BR 14183 1940 10 NH
YB2BNJ 14032 2255 8 IL

Z21BA 14179 1850 1 CT
Z21BA 14179 1850 1 MD
ZC4CZ 14054 1243 10 GA
ZC4MR 14227 1553 13 NH
ZC4MR 14227 1507 8 MD
ZD7CW 14188 2226 7 MD
ZD7SE 14183 1810 11 PA
ZM8OY 142;36 1817 7 CA
ZS3KC 14183 1851 8 CT
ZS3Z 14025 1945 15 IL
ZS3Z 14025 2009 15 MA

15 METERS

5T5RG 21005 1645 7 PA
7P8KG 21022 1654 6 CA
7P8KG 21202 1651 16 AL
7P8KG 21248 1620 13 FL
9J2WR 21210 1653 16 AL
EA6/G6ZY 21022 1611 13 FL
FP8DF 21210 1639 16 AL
TR8CR 21335 1646 16 AL
ZS3CU 21033 1817 14 OR
ZS3Z 21024 1612 13 FL
ZS3Z 21026 1754 15 IL
ZS3Z 21295 1616 13 FL

KEY TO BANDPASS:

Callsign;
Frequency;
UTC;
day of month;
state.

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anytime, or phone:

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QSL INFO

• CR8AI, try Abraao Levy, CTT, Dili, Timor. Check Portugal Callbook1 listings for this name.

• Help needed by K8AL: MP4BJT (7/73), A9XCC (7/77), VP8GQ (10/62), VK9GW (4/63), YJ8JM (9/69), and 3B8DO/3B7 (9/81).

CONTRIBUTORS

KA1BU, K1KTB, K4UVT, W4VQ, K8AL, I2MQP, K9EL, KA1SR, K4BAI, K6IR, K3RR, WK6E, W1CYB, W8CT, NA1R, W1EXZ, K9UIY, KA1XN, K1JA, N4NO, KD7SO, KZ1Z, P29JS.

CALENDAR

ISSUE 316

AFRICA	W6KG/W6QL finished at 7P8KG; next stop either 3D6 or A22, then then 7Q, S8, ZE, 9J, and CR8 possible through next April; QSL to YASME.	MACQUARIE-VK0 MALAGASY-5R	VK0GC QRT; QSL to VK9NS 5R8AL try 20, 40 Meters SSB try Fri, 21.330, 16-1700Z 8Q7CG BY 15JHW Jan 19-Feb 1 5T5SR on 15, 20 SSB and CW; QSL N4GND
ARUBA-P4	A new DXCC country beginning Jan 1; P4/KQ2M scheduled Jan 13-20	P.N.G.-P29 PETER I ISLAND	P29JS returns to VK9NS in Jan; I316 December by JF1IST cancelled; by KD7P possible Jan (I313)
BVI-VP2V	JA group Dec 27-Jan 2; Issue 315	PITCAIRN-VR6 PORTUGAL	VR6JR staying through January New callsigns in Dec; I310
CAMEROON-TJ	TJ1CH try 14.183 at 2000Z	SAO TOME-S9	S92LB on 14.183 2030-2330Z4 his QSLs are <u>good</u> for DXCC
CAMBODIA-XU	XU1SS in JA, Europe, 0900Z	SAUDI ARABIA-HZ	HZ1AB QRT; I310
CHATHAM-ZL7	ZL7AA on, likes 40 Meters	S. SHETLANDS	CE9HOP there, no reports (1285)
CHINA-BY	BY1QH, BY1SK active 20 SSB	SO GEORGIA	VP8BFC rumored coming soon
CHRISTMAS-VK9X	VK9XJ try 14.170 at 1200Z	SO ORKNEYS	AZ1A on RTTY no reports; I310
COMOROS-D68	DJ6QT rumored for next spring	SUDAN-ST	ON7IP/ST rumored in January
CONGO-TN	TN8EE no reports (12/85)	SVAALBARD-JW	JW5VAA, JW5E on now; I310
CYPRUS BASES	ZC4HMS, ZC4ESB active; ZC4MR on with W7PHO, 14.225 at 1600Z ZC4MR says 160 starting soon	TAHITI	Rumored by KS7P in January
CHAGOS	VQ9LD try 7005/1300Z long path	TOKELAUS-ZK3	ZK3RW by ZL1AMO next March; I314
E KIRIBATI-T32	T32AB on 20 SSB; K7EHI/T32 too	TONGA-A35	A35TN by VK3DET Nov 25-Jan 3; no reports
FALKLANDS -VP8	VP8BGO active	TRISTAN-ZD9	ZD9BV no reports for some time (11/85)
FERN DE NORON.	PY0FG no reports (12/85)	TROMELIN	FR7AI rumored there next Feb; I315
FIJI-3D2	Reportedly now have 1800-1850 KHz	VE3FXT	VE3FXT/ZS4 now, then back to Canada
FR JOSEF LAND	UALPAP currently most active	WILLIS-VK9Z	VK9ZB gone, will be replaced; I316
GUINEA-BISSAU-J5	J52UAG active; Issue 315	160 METER NET	With 4X4NJ, 1400Z, Saturday, 14.337 Info 1900-2000 KHz, I310
INDIA	Now 160 Meters 1820-1860; Issue 315		
KERGUELEN-FT8X	FT8XB, XA very active all bands;		
KERMADEC-ZM8	ZM8OY ends Dec 31		
KURE-KH7	KH6JEB/KH7 supposedly on again; no reports		
LORD HOWE-VK9	VK9NM by DJ5CQ until Feb, 1986 he wants QSLs direct there, to Box 5, L.H. Island 2898, Australia		

CONTESTS

CQ 160 METER, JAN 24-26
CQ 160 SSB FEB 21-23
ARRL DX CW FEB 15/16
ARRL DX PHONE MAR 1/2

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